

# U.S. 20 Iowa River Bridge



**2<sup>ND</sup> NATIONAL  
PREFABRICATED  
BRIDGE ELEMENTS  
AND SYSTEMS  
WORKSHOP**

**NEW BRUNSWICK,  
NEW JERSEY**

*September 8-10, 2004*

# History of the Relocation Process

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Iowa Department  
of Transportation



# History of the Relocation Process

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of Transportation



# Environmental Concerns & Restrictions

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- **Concerns**

- ◆ **Eagles roosting area**
- ◆ **Northern Monkshood plant**
- ◆ **Mussels in river**
- ◆ **Quality Wetlands**

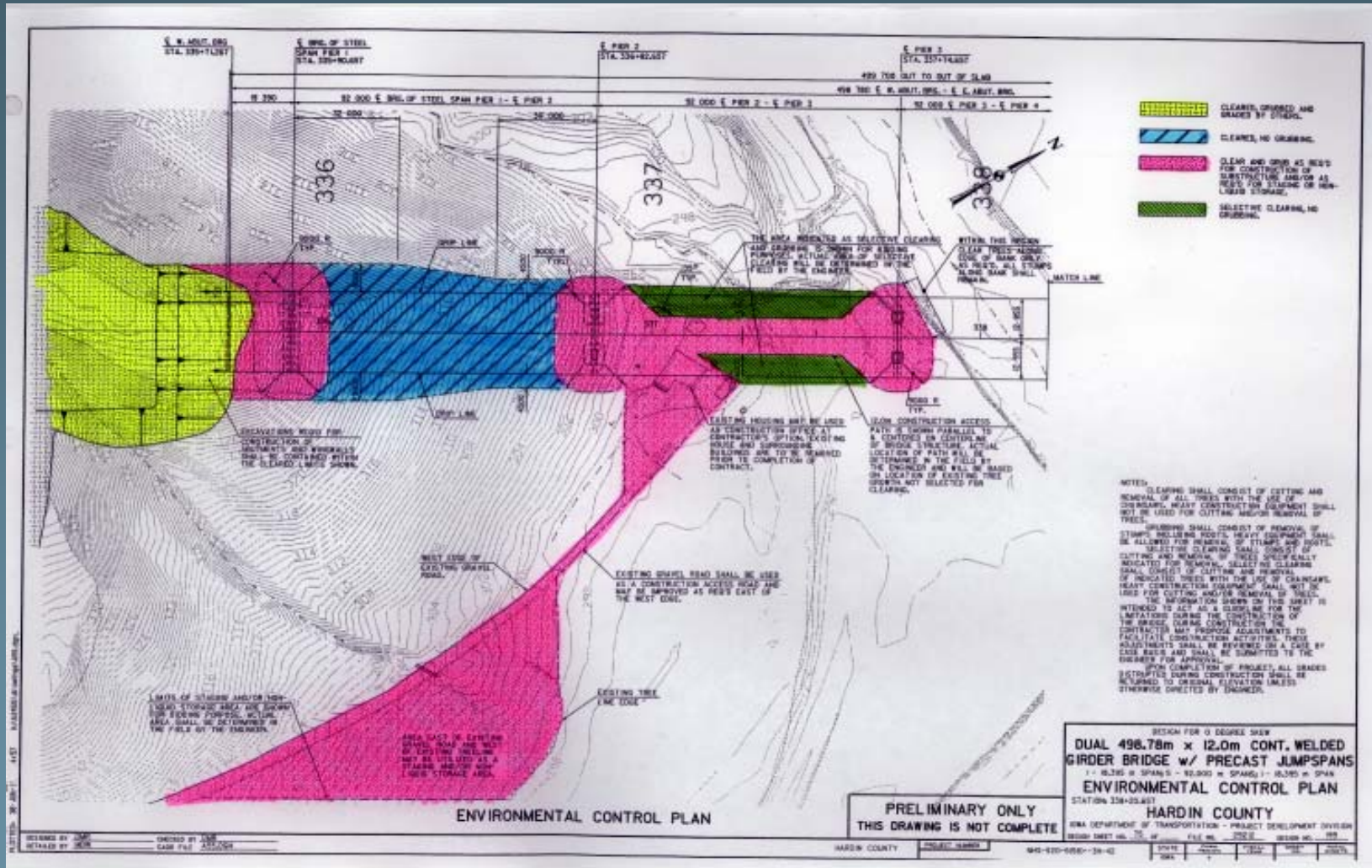
# Environmental Concerns & Restrictions

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## ■ Restrictions

- ◆ Limited clearing & grubbing under bridge.
- ◆ Minimized areas of construction zone.
- ◆ No bridging or crossing of the river.
- ◆ No work on site Nov. 1st - Apr. 15th.  
This restriction was lifted

# Environmental Concerns & Restrictions

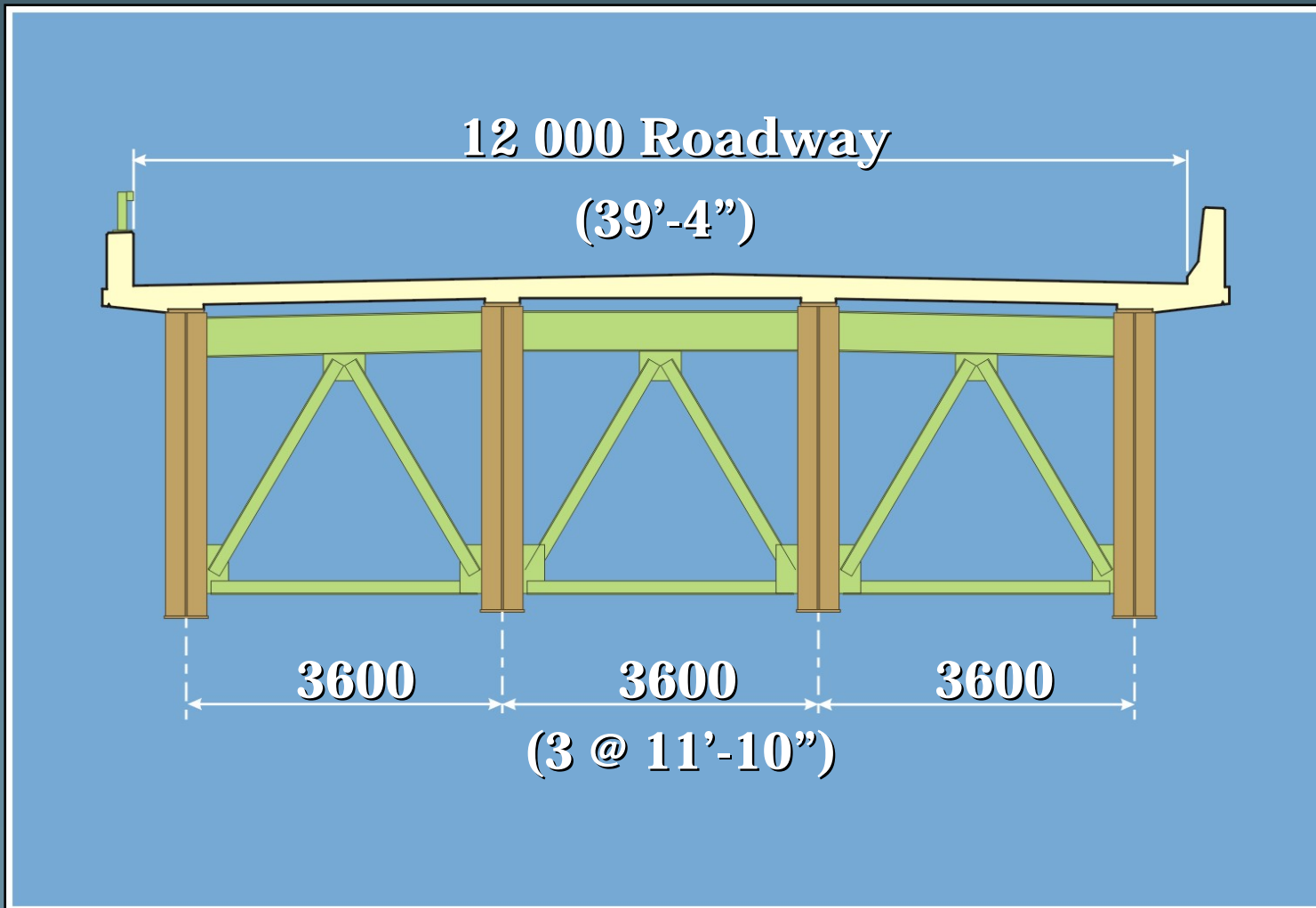


# Archeological Restrictions

- Indian burial mounds
- Ancient native american campsites
- Headstones

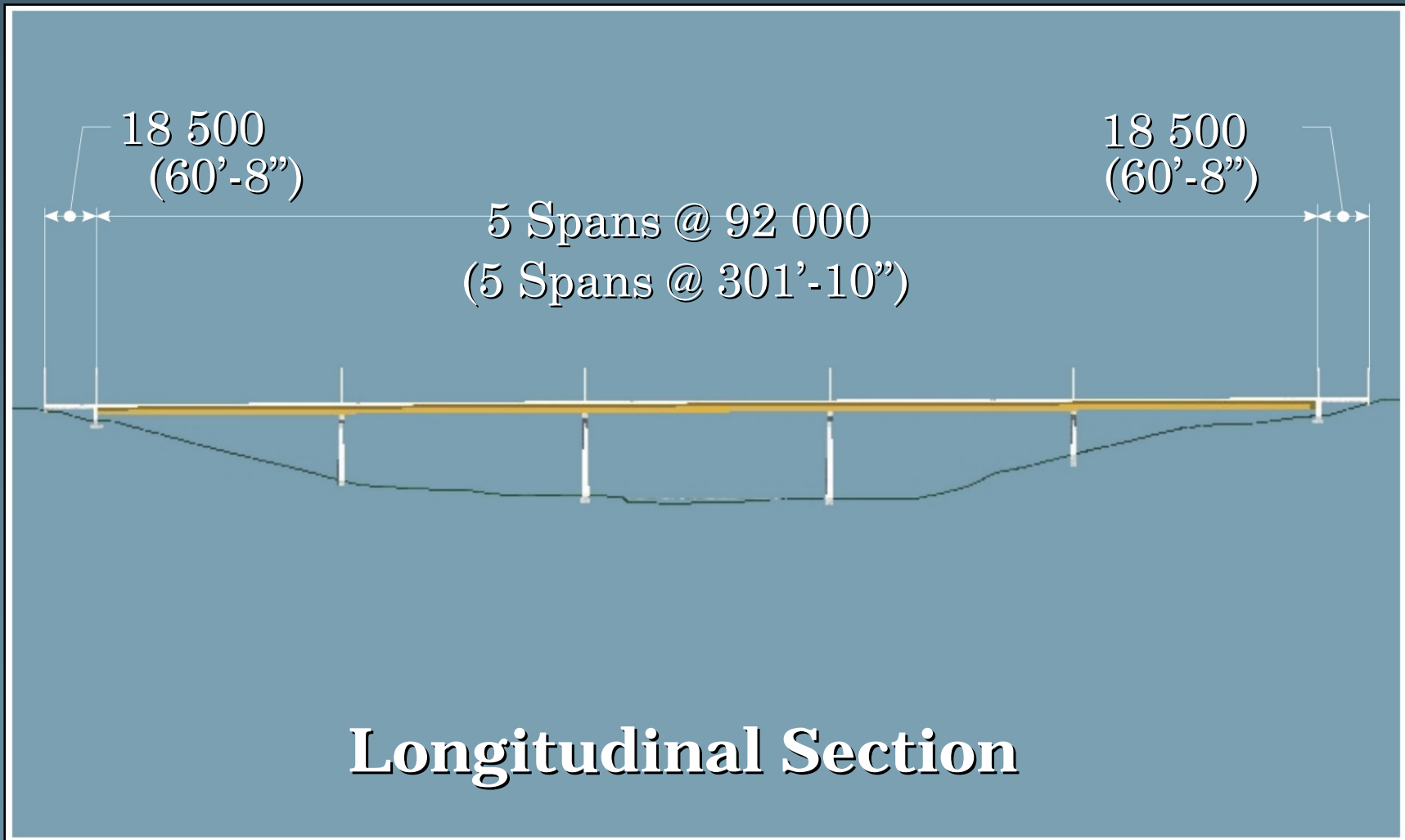


# Bridge Details (One Superstructure)

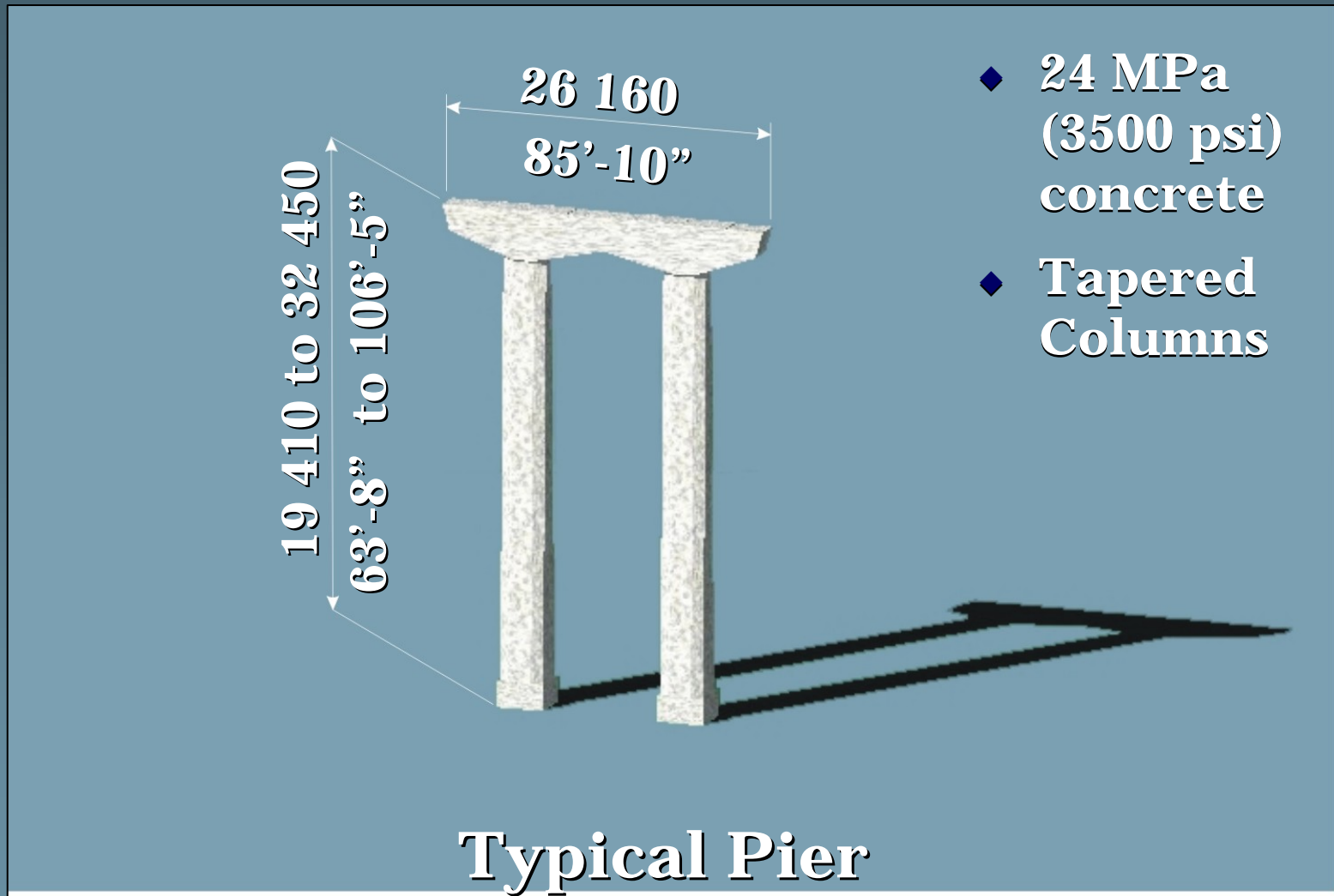




# Bridge Details

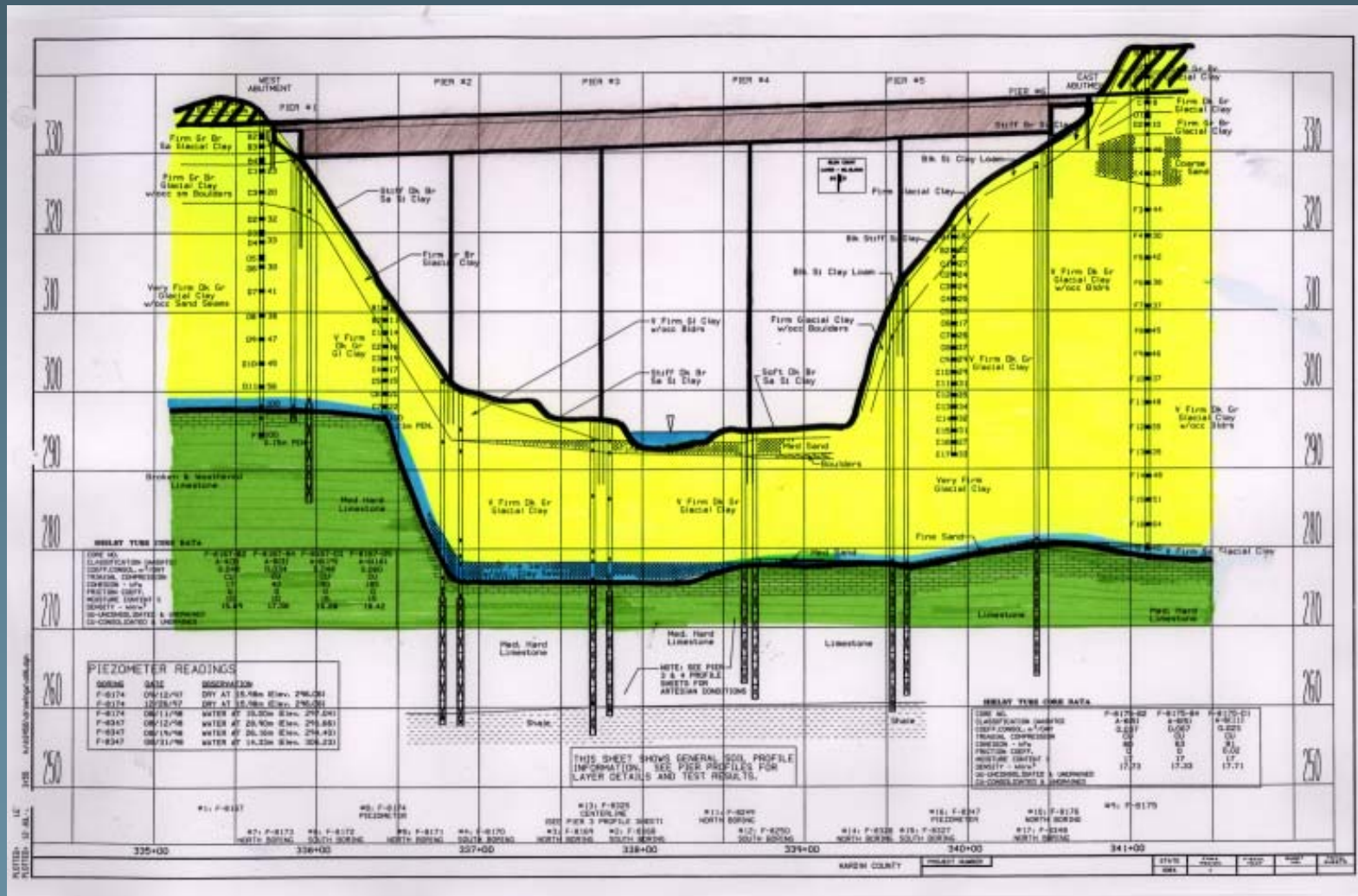


# Bridge Details (Piers)



Typical Pier

# Geotechnical Analysis & Recommendations



# Launching Pit Excavated at East Abutment



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# Girders Assembled in Launching Pit



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# Girders Supported Rollers



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BRIDGE ENGINEERING  
CENTER

# Ramp Plates Aid Transition at Field Splices



# Girders Supported by Rollers





# Girders Guided by Horizontal Rollers



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# Monitor Girder Position During Launching



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# Jacking System Used for Launching



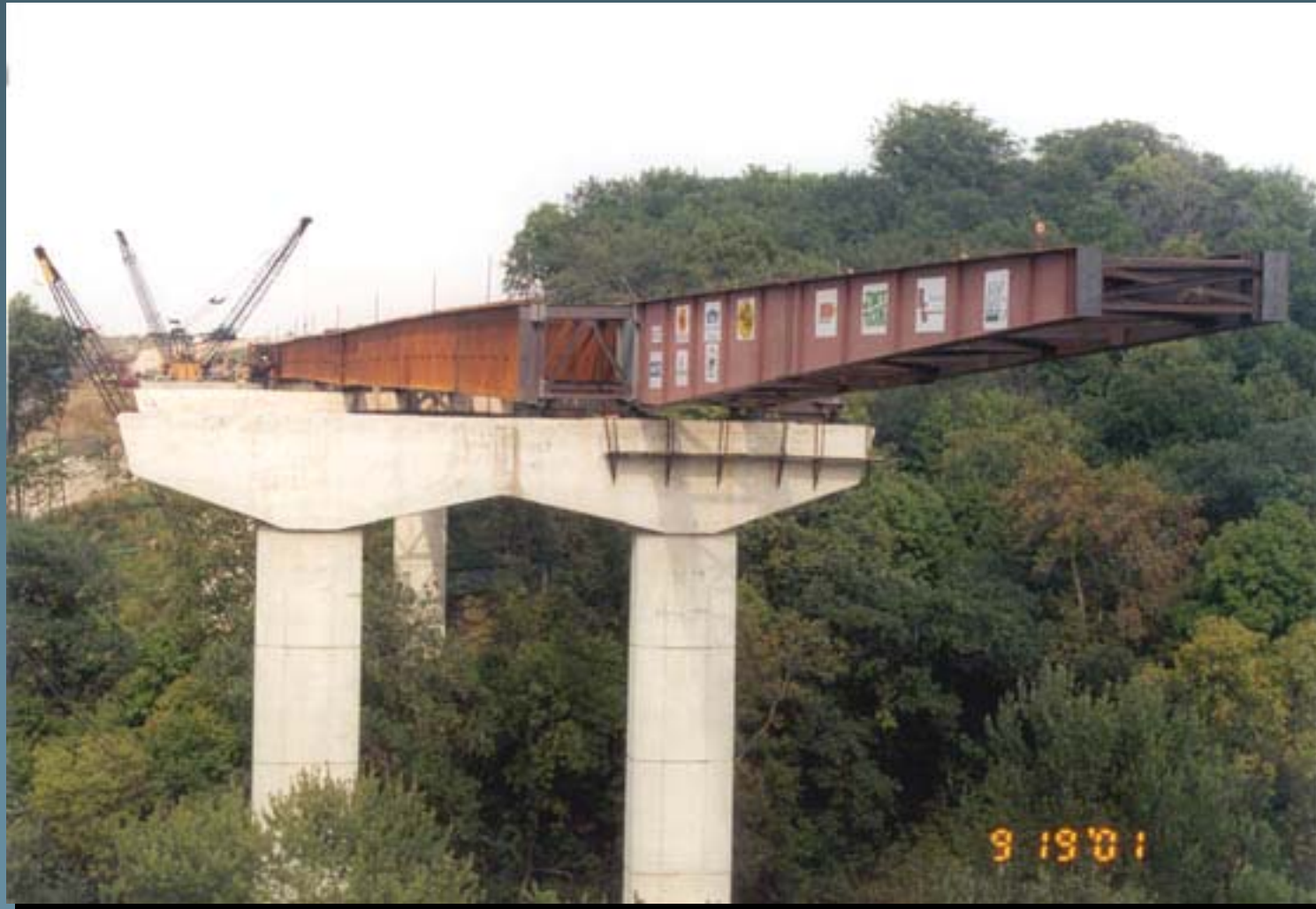
# Jacking System Used for Launching



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# Launching Nose Accommodates Deflection



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# Deflection of WB Span 1 During Launch



# Launching Nose Landing at Final Pier



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# Looking East From Beneath Girders at Pier 1





# Rollers Removed After Launching Completed



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# Bearings Inserted and Girders Jacked Down



# Goals of Monitoring Program

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Gain a more complete understanding of the behavior of launched plate girder bridges

Quantify structural performance and verify assumptions made during design

Identify locations of overstress or other damage

- Immediate repair
- Long-term maintenance concerns

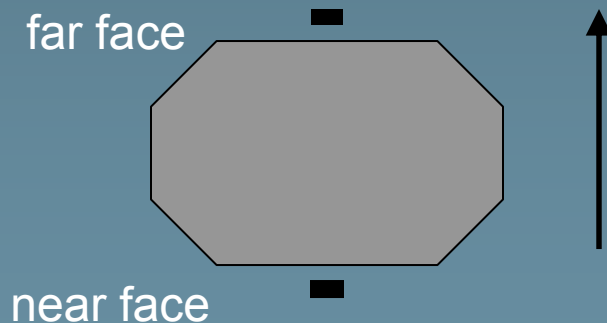


# Substructure Monitoring

## General pier behavior (drilled shaft and driven pile)

- Column base strain
- Column base translation and tilt
- Cap beam tilt

At near and far column faces

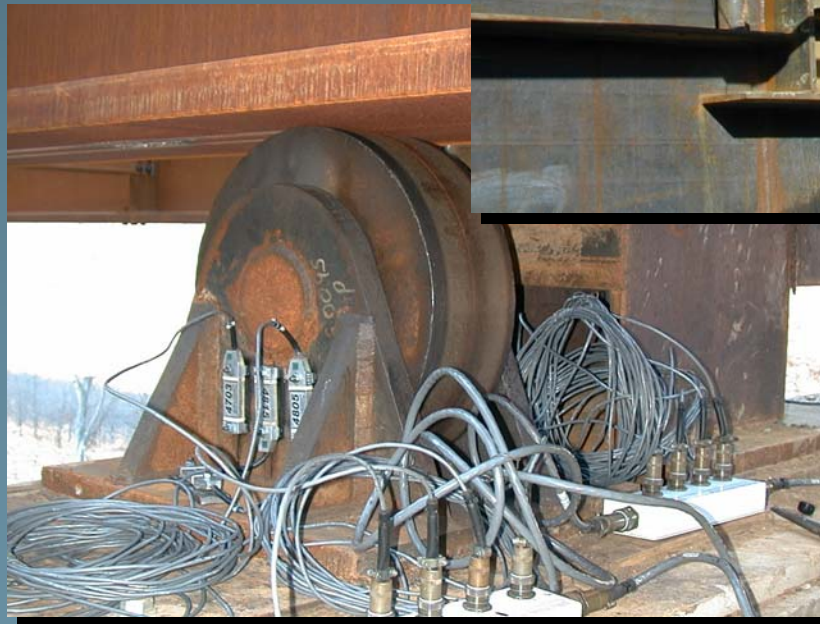


# Substructure Monitoring

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## Magnitude of launch induced forces

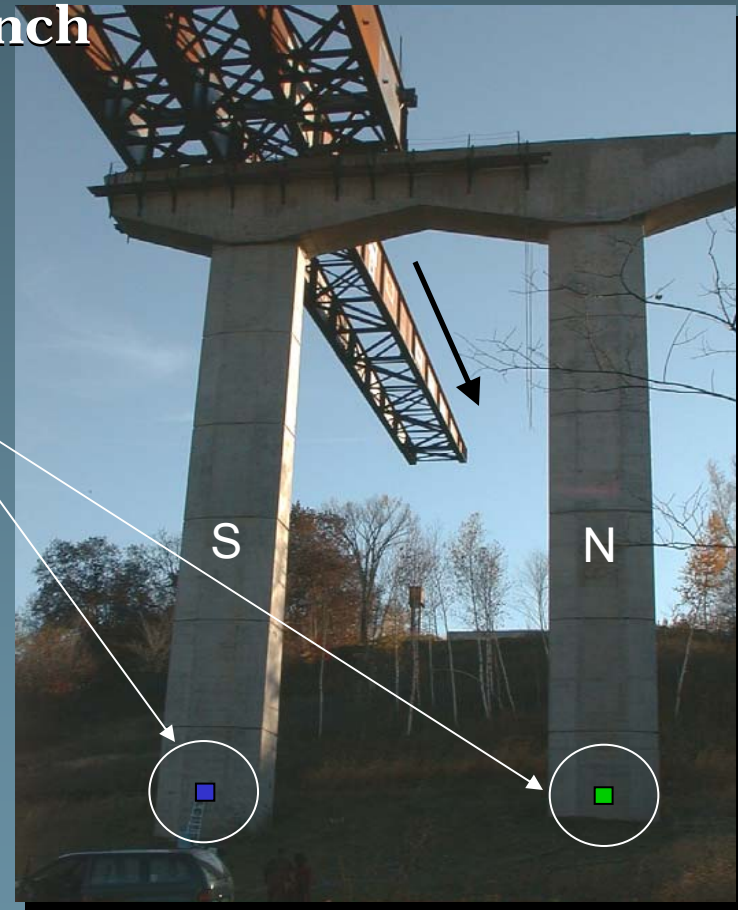
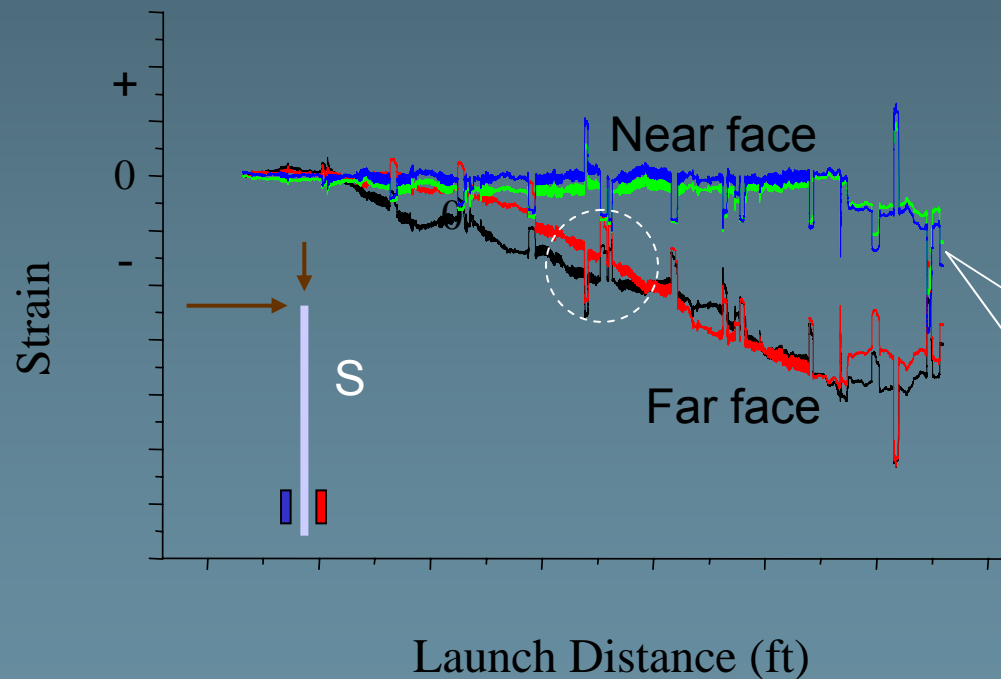
- At hydraulic jacks
- At pier cap



# Monitoring Results - Substructure

Largest day launch cumulative column stress measured was 600 psi

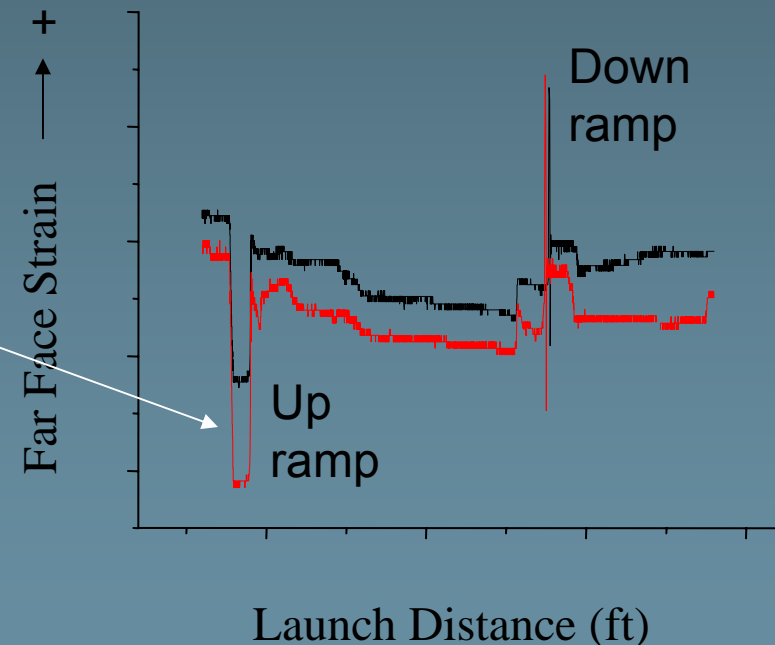
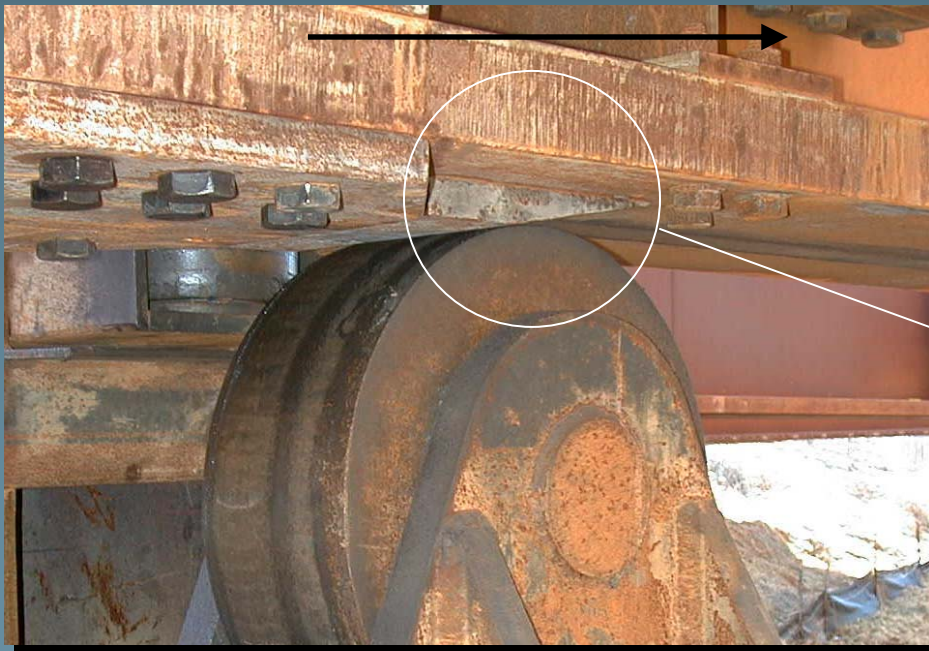
Residual stress at end of day launch



# Monitoring Results - Substructure

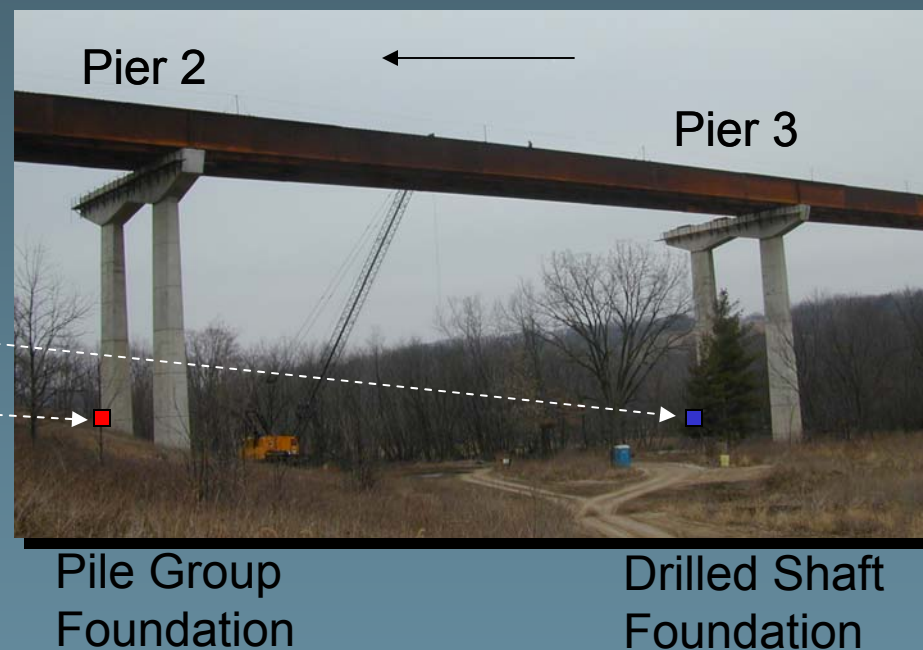
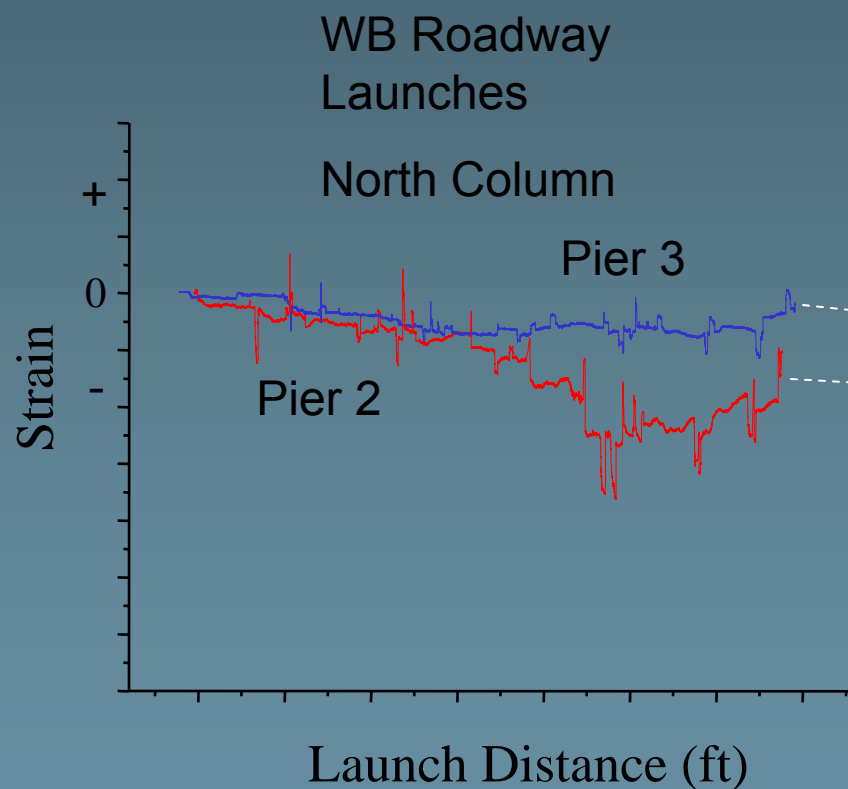
Max. measured column stresses of approx. 260 psi due to applied launch force “spikes”; similar to calculated values

Pier design controlled by AASHTO loads  
-design checks considered ramp crossing loads



# Monitoring Results - Substructure

Drilled shaft foundation more “flexible” than pile group foundation in resisting launch forces





# Superstructure Monitoring

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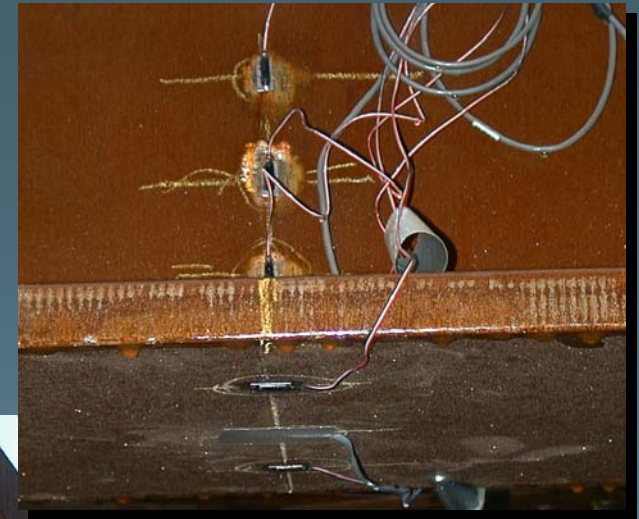
## Girder load distribution

- Bending

## Cross-frame behavior

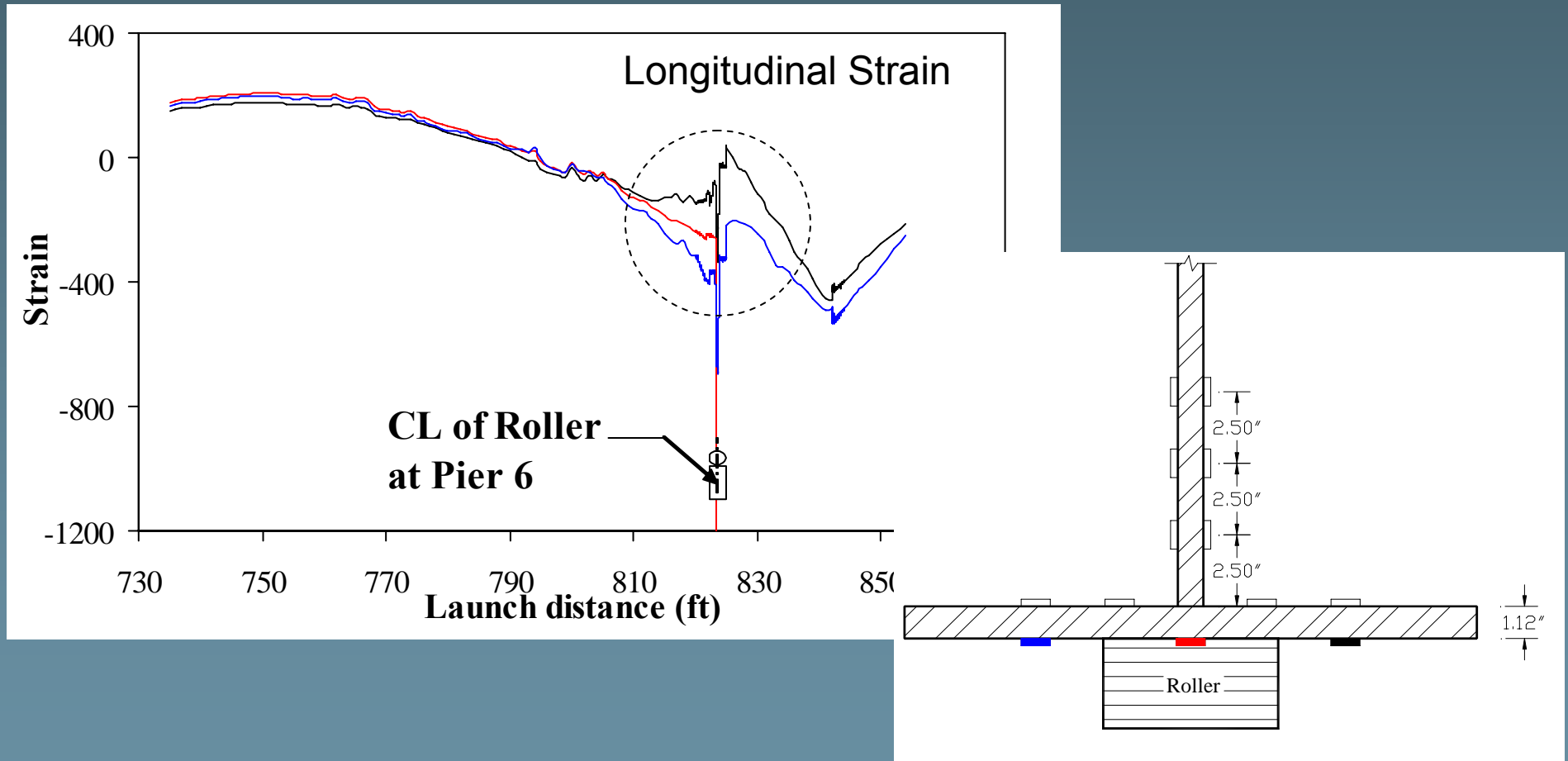
## Roller contact stresses

- Bottom flange
- Web
- Flange to web welds



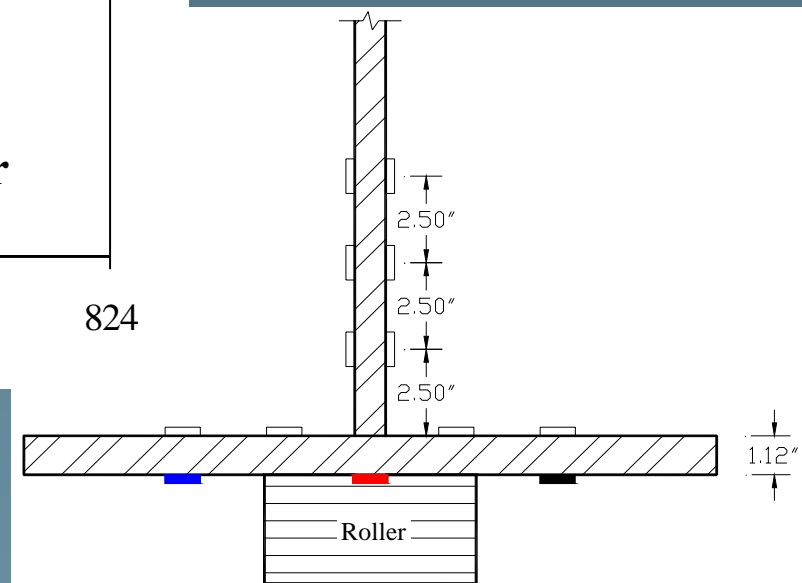
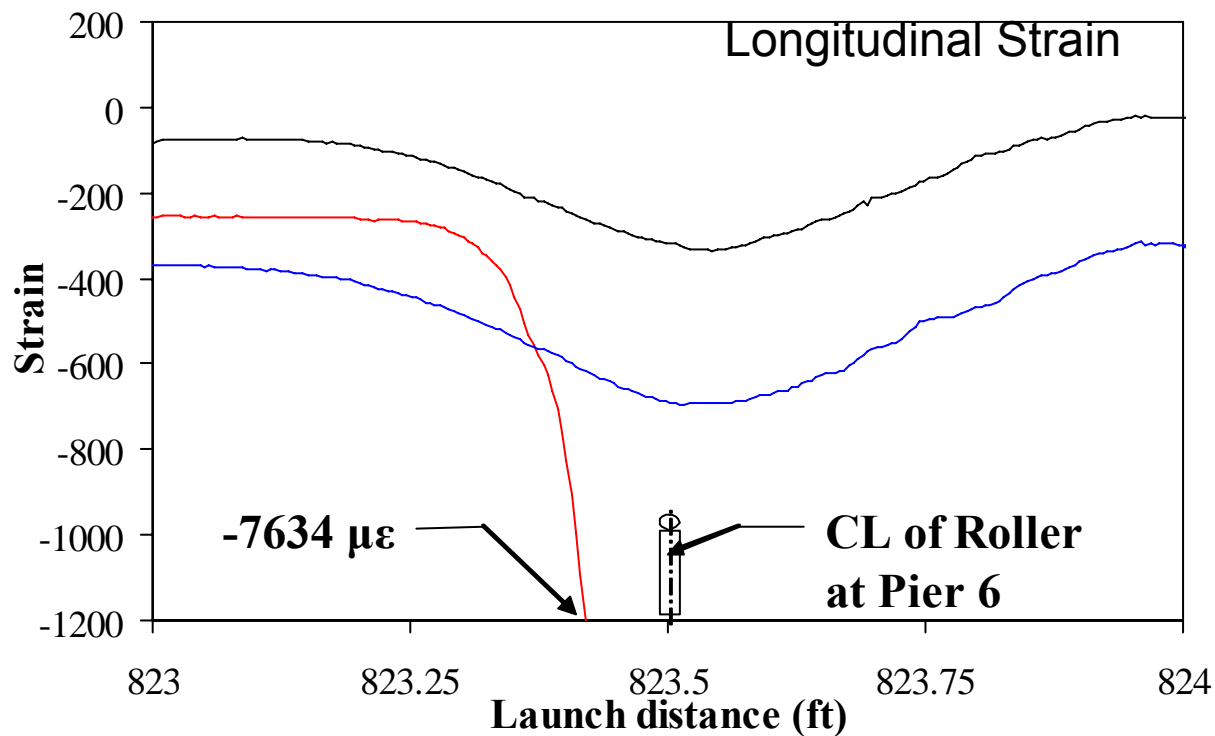
# Monitoring Results - Superstructure

Design bearing for vertical compressive stress  
-closed form solution of equivalent line load  
-reaction at Pier 6 for Pier 5 touchdown



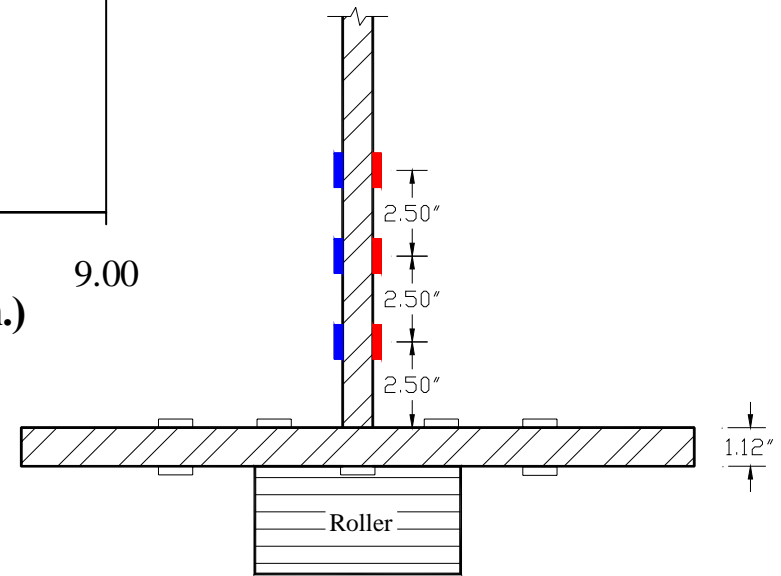
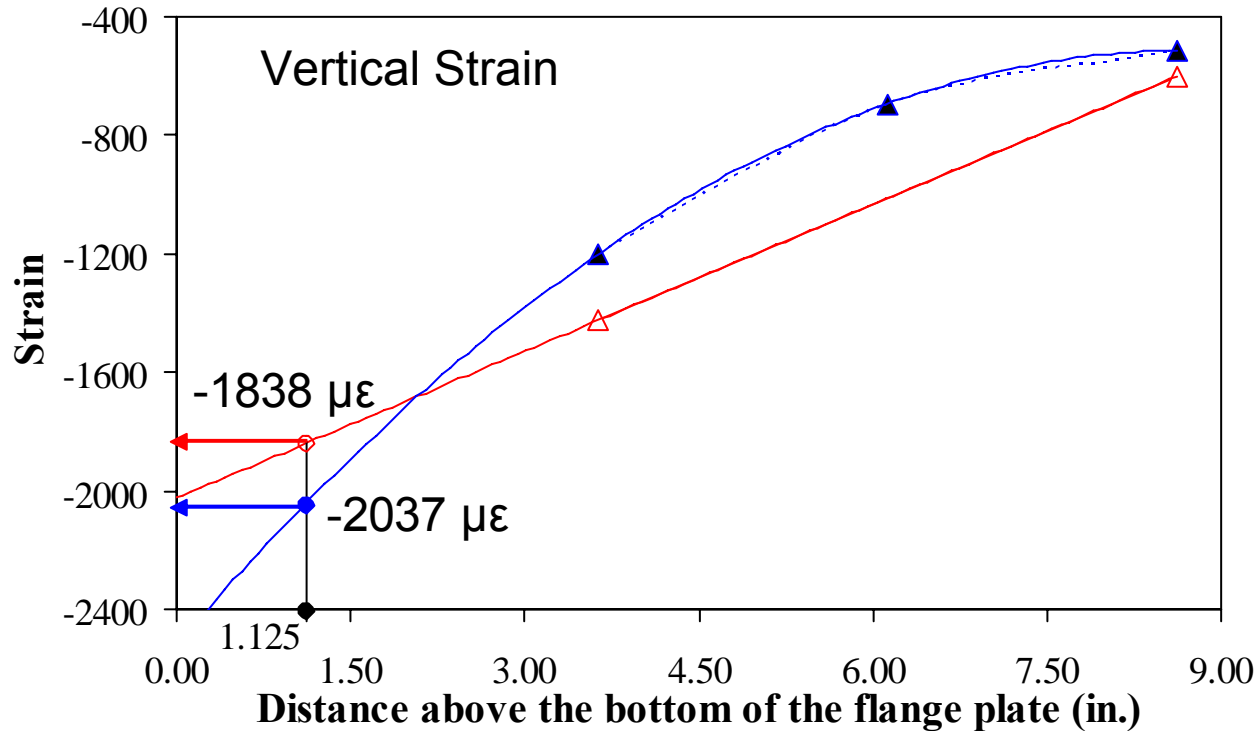
# Monitoring Results - Superstructure

Significant longitudinal flange strain measured  $> F_y$



# Monitoring Results - Superstructure

## Significant vertical strain measured



# Monitoring Results - Superstructure

Cross-frame behavior is complex and sensitive  
-axial forces, biaxial bending, and torsion

Measured values exceeded design values

Design assumed AASHTO loads only

Member Type	Design Force	Calculated Force (WB1)	Calculated Force (WB5)
Upper Chord	20 kips C	42.6 kips T	86.2 kips T
Diagonals	38 kips T or C	56.2 kips T	172.1 kips T
Bottom Chord	20 kips T or C	31.1 kips T	39.7 kips C

# Action Related to Contact Stress Issue

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## Post-construction inspection

- Visual and magnetic particle
- No signs of cracking or other damage

## High stresses can result in “cold work” region

- Fracture characteristics not impacted

# Launch Project Recommendations

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**Use large contact surface area for launch rollers**

**Design crossframe members/connections to support the weight of one girder supported only by crossframe**

**Provide comprehensive monitoring program**

- **Identify potential problematic issues**
- **Alert contractor during launch**

# Launch Project Recommendations

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Develop a launching system that is reversible

Use a set of mirrors or other system to monitor the “plumbness” of piers

Use constant width bottom flanges for I-girders



## Conclusion

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- This project is proof that the incremental launching erection method can be successfully performed on longer span steel I-girder bridges. It is anticipated that this method of construction will become more commonplace in the U.S. as bridge owners recognize its potential benefits. Incremental launching is applicable to either environmentally sensitive areas or locations limited by restricted access.

# Acknowledgements

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- Jensen Construction
- HNTB